



**Indiana
Department
of
Health**

Drug Overdose Prevention Newscast

March 14, 2023

Updates

Over-the-Counter Naloxone Access

Last month, Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisors unanimously voted in favor of making Narcan available without a prescription. In several states, Narcan, otherwise known as naloxone, is already readily available. On the other hand, some states still have regulatory statutes that make naloxone difficult for the general population to access. Take for example Alabama, which only permits pharmacists and licensed physicians to distribute naloxone.

If naloxone is approved for over-the-counter use, access will improve nationwide. "For the sake of the public and saving lives, I believe this medication should be available over the counter to the public as soon as possible", said Dr. Katalin Roth, professor at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Advocates also hope that FDA approval for nonprescription naloxone will pave the way for more access to cheaper, more generic alternatives. Advisory panels convened in February to discuss approval for another naloxone spray, RiVive. Overall, the FDA is working to improve naloxone accessibility, and a final decision about nonprescription Narcan will be released by the end of March.

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Indiana Legislation Aimed at Reducing Overdose Deaths

According to data from Indiana Department of Health, overdoses in Indiana reached record highs in 2020 and 2021. To address these trends, policymakers have been authoring legislation aimed at preventing drug overdose and strengthening the crisis response system in the state. One such bill is [HB 1462](#) authored by Representative Ann Vermillion of Marion County. HB 1462 would require all emergency departments in the state to provide Indiana Department of Health an implementation plan for when patients have a substance-use related emergency.

At the bill's hearing, Mental Health America of Indiana's Vice President Brandon George said that there are discrepancies in emergency departments across the state that result in poor health outcomes for individuals with substance use disorder. HB 1462 would allow emergency departments to create individualized plans based on the resources they have and the populations they serve. Vermillion notes that HB 1462 connects to Senate Bill 1, which proposes expansions to mental healthcare across Indiana. The House approved HB 1462, and it has headed to the Senate Appropriations Committee.

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Indiana Recovery Network's Regional Recovery Hubs

Indiana Recovery Network, a program of Mental Health America of Indiana (MHA), has created Regional Recovery Hubs distributed geographically around the state. These Hubs expand our ability to connect Hoosiers with mental health and substance use disorders to treatment and recovery supports through Certified Peer Recovery Coaches, Community Health Workers, and Certified Recovery Specialists. These Regional Recovery Hubs can assist individuals with substance use disorder, regardless of where someone is in their recovery journey. Find your local recovery Hub at the link below.



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Upcoming Events

Invisible Injuries: Domestic Violence

1 p.m.—2:30 p.m. CST, March 15

Hosted by: Great Lakes MHTTC

The significant impact of domestic violence on a person's behavioral health—including substance use and mental health conditions—has long been recognized by researchers and practitioners alike. Brain injury caused by domestic violence is rarely identified and almost never immediately treated, and results in short and long term physical, emotional, and cognitive consequences. In this webinar, participants will learn about the Ohio Domestic Violence Network and The Ohio State University's project and research that led to the creation of the evidence-based framework CARE (connect, acknowledge, respond, evaluate).

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Lifeline for Loss Support Group

7 p.m.—9 p.m. EST, March 20

Indiana Interchurch Center— 1100 W. 42nd St., Indianapolis, IN 46208

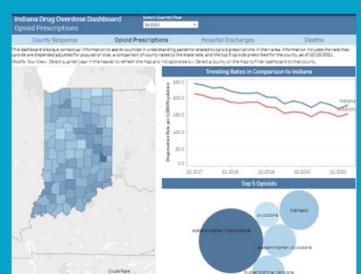
Hosted by: Overdose Lifeline

Lifeline for Loss Support Group meets on the third Monday of every month. It is intended to support and offer a safe space for families and friends who have lost a loved one to addiction. Today's society has a lot of stigma around the disease of addiction which makes the struggle more isolating. Overdose Lifeline recognizes the need for an understanding community to provide support from a loss. If you or someone you know has experienced loss due to opioid overdose, please join our support group.

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Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard

Please visit the [Indiana Drug Overdose Dashboard](#), where you will find data from 2017 up to provisional data for 2021. In this dashboard, you will find data regarding opioid prescriptions, hospital discharges, and drug-related deaths. You can use this dashboard to explore overdose data at the county and state levels.



To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

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